VISIT…

22 Fun Activities For Kids

or

How To Get Your Kids Out of Your Hair For Days!

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22 Fun Activities For Kids

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How To Get Your Kids Out of Your Hair For Days!

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TENT CITY

By using your imagination to determine the shape and materials, you will learn to think and improve your concentration skills. You will learn to cooperate with others when you have someone help you build the Tent City.

You will also discover patience when the "walls" fall down and you have to put them back up.

material needed:

chairs, blankets, and sheets

let's get started: Choose a room in the house that has a lot or free space.

1. Place the chairs in the area they want to build their tent city in. Any number of chairs can be used. Two to four is usually a good number for most spaces. The chairs can be placed across from each other - in a straight line - in a circle - or in no order.

2. Starting with the heaviest blanket or sheet, drape it over the chairs. Continue draping the remaining ones using the chairs. Tying the ends around a doorknob or tucking it under another piece of furniture will add more room.

3. When the Tent City is up, play inside it. You can pretend it's a fort in the wilderness, a home, a job or any other place you can think of.

SCRATCH PICTURES

If you're a Budding artist, you will develop your creativity and a sense of pride when this project is completed. You will increase your hand/eye coordination. If you use a still life or picture to get ideas to draw from, your eye for detail will become sharper. If you choose to do an abstract picture or something from your imagination, your personal sense of style will become more developed.

material needed:

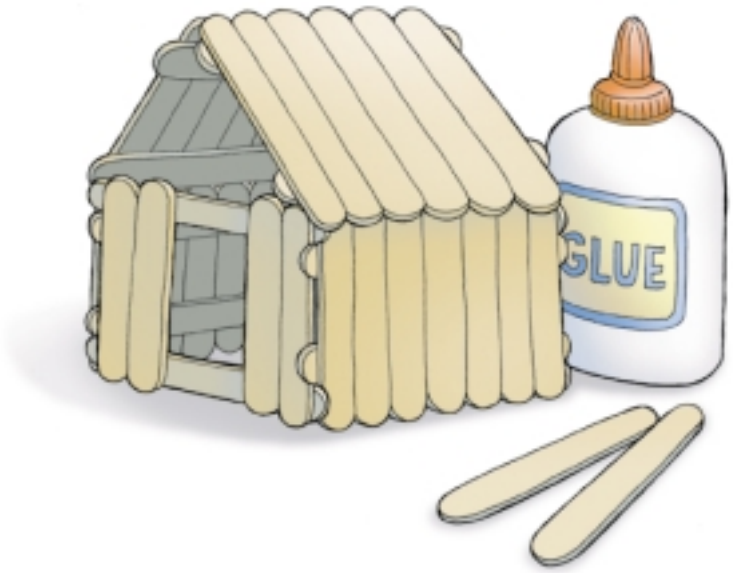
white paper, crayons, waxed paper, toothpick or something to scratch with, iron, towel, ironing board or a flat surface

let's get started: Color the white paper.

1. Use a crayon to divide the paper into small or large sections. Color each section a different color except black.
2. With a black crayon, color the entire sheet that was just colored with different colors, black.
3. Place the paper on a flat surface or ironing board.
4. Cover the paper with waxed paper.
5. Cover with a towel and iron. Go over it a few times. The waxed paper will melt onto the colored sheet.
6. When cool, use a toothpick to scratch out a picture.

Some ideas: Building a still life or using a picture is a good idea for younger children. Other children can draw pictures from their imagination such as birds and clouds in the sky, cars, animals, etc.

STICK OR PICK



Building houses, fences, barns or sidewalks is easy to do using Popsicle sticks. For beginners, a fence or ramp will be the easiest to do. This activity helps improve hand/eye coordination and concentration. World famous architects may have starting out building stick houses.

material needed:

popsicle sticks, glue

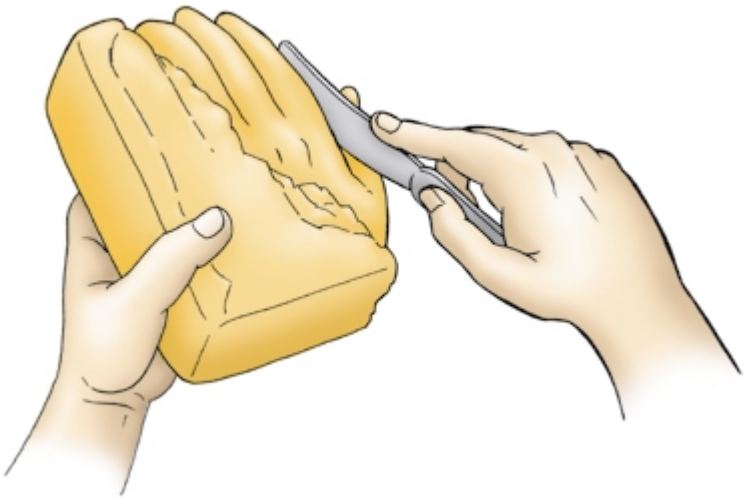
let's get started: Decide what to build.

1. The basic of this activity is to glue the Popsicle sticks together. To build a wall for a house - glue them together on the sides. Use five to ten Popsicle sticks for each wall. The front of the house will use two panels of two to seven Popsicle's to leave room for a door. Experienced builders can leave room for a window. Build a panel for the floor and the roof.

2. When all of the panels are put together, glue them together to shape into a house (or other structure).

Variations: Use toothpicks and glue. Make a house of cards without the glue.

SOAP SCULPTURES



This is also called a "feely" sculpture because you are using your sense of touch to create it. You will stimulate your hand/eye coordination.

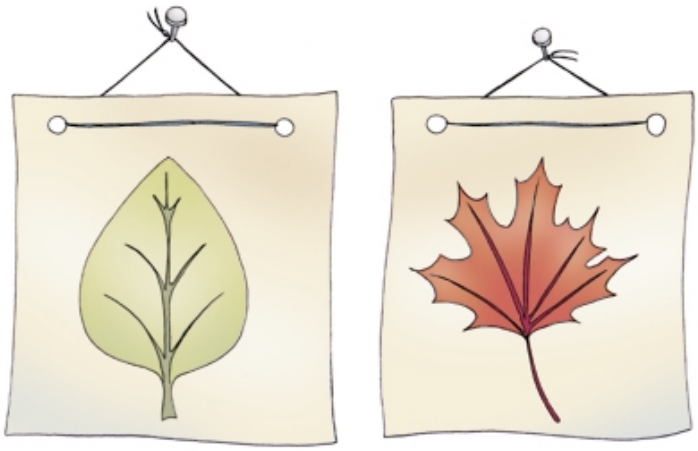
material needed:

a hand, a bar of soap, a table knife to carve with (doesn't have to be a sharp knife), optional pen or pencil, water, paper towel

let's get started: Wrap your hand around the bar of soap until it feels comfortable.

1. Use the knife to carve out the area not occupied by your hand. It may help to trace the outline of the hand onto the bar of soap then carve it.
2. Once the basic outline is carved and the bar of soap starts to take shape, you don't have to hold it in your hand any longer. Carve the soap in areas that are pleasing to you. Put your hand back on the soap if you need help finding places to carve out. Carve the soap bar where it isn't comfortable in your hand.
3. Carve a base so your soap sculpture will stand up.
4. When done, smooth out the edges with water and paper towels.
5. Let dry.
6. Display.

WAXY NATURE PICTURES



Creativity mixed with a bit of adventure is a perfect blend to make a pleasing picture using waxed paper and objects from nature. You will learn to arrange items in a pleasing manner and to choose objects that go together. A sense of style and color appreciation will be gained.

material needed:

two pieces of waxed paper, leaves, two towels,
and iron and ironing board or flat surface

let's get started: Put on your shoes and a jacket, if necessary. It's time to go outdoors.

1. Scour the yard to find some of the loveliest leaves you can. Pick up as many as you'd like. You don't have to use all of them if you don't want to.
2. While outside; brush any dirt off the leaves with your hand.
3. Prepare a flat surface or use an ironing board. Put one towel on the surface.
4. Place one piece of waxed paper on top of the towel.
5. Arrange the leaves on the waxed paper in any order that you like.
6. Place the second piece of waxed paper on top of the leaves. Try to make the corners fit to each piece.
7. Place the other towel on top and iron. Make sure to iron the corners. The final product is a pretty nature picture.
8. Let cool.

Variations: You can punch two holes in the top of the picture. Put yarns or string through the holes to hang it on the wall.

PINECONE PEOPLE

Get ready to explore. Your senses are about to be awakened. Test your sense of sight by selecting the prettiest pinecone and stones you can find. Pick one that feels nice to touch, isn't too soggy and doesn't bend over too much. You are about to use your imagination to make a pinecone person. This will increase your hand/eye coordination and you will learn how to put different materials together.

material needed:

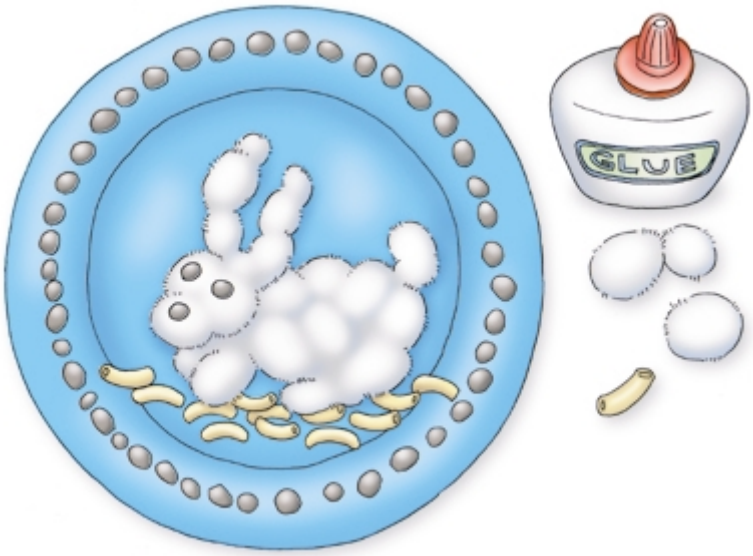
pinecone, four small stones including two of the flattest ones you can find to use as feet, yarn, sugar or glitter, and glue or rubber cement (rubber cement works better)

let's get started: Will your pinecone person be silly or serious? When you are choosing your pinecone and stones, that will be important.

1. Start with a clean pinecone. Glue two flat stones on the bottom. They will be the feet.
2. Glue the other two small stones and place where the eyes will be.
3. Use a small piece of yarn for the mouth. Do you want your person to smile, frown or sneer? You can also braid or tie some yarn together to use as hair.
4. Put glue on the pinecone and sprinkle with sugar or glitter. Your person

Variations: Use acorns, peanuts or walnuts to make other kinds of people. If you have small pieces of fabric, pipe cleaners or buttons around the house, you can use those to accessorize or to give your person ears.

PAPER PLATE ART



You will develop an artistic flair as you make a picture. Use your imagination, let it run wild, and write your name in stones or make a bunny out of cotton balls. This will help you increase your hand/eye coordination.

material needed:

paper plates, glue, and macaroni (elbow works great),
cotton balls or small stones, crayons and glue

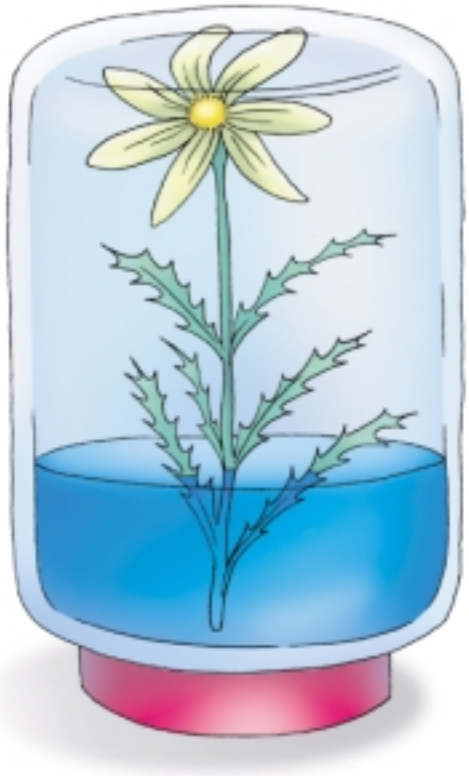
let's get started: Decide what you would like to create - a name, a picture or any kind of scene.

1. Draw a design on the plate. Color any kind of background if you would like to have one.

2. Choose either the macaroni, stones or cotton balls or a combination of the three and glue them on the picture.

   Ideas: Write your name in stones and put cotton balls around the center of the plate to frame it. Draw a bunny. Use the cotton balls to make him fluffy and use pretty stones for eyes. Draw a lake scene with a boat. Use macaroni to make the sails.

WATER GLOBE



You will learn to measure liquid and develop a sense of design.

material needed:

a jar with a screw on lid (baby food jars work well - plastic or glass peanut butter jars or bottles are fine also), one plastic flower, ribbon, water, glue

let's get started: Clean the jar and take all the labels off of it. Soak it in hot water to get the label off easier.

1. Place the plastic flower into the jar. The top of the flower should be facing the top of the jar. When the jar is sealed and turned so the cover is on the bottom, the flower will be up.

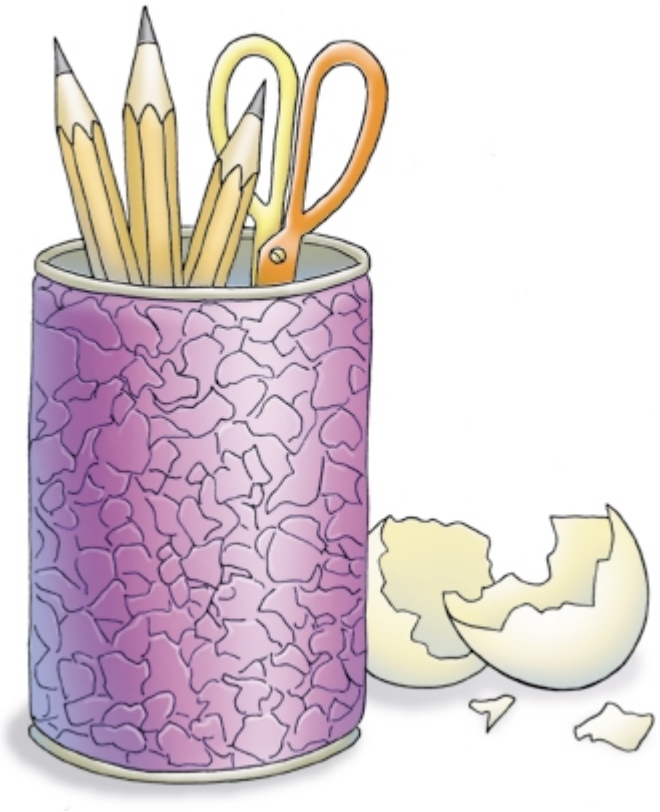
2. Fill the jar with water and put the cap on.

3. Glue a piece of ribbon around the rim of the cap.

4. Display.

Variations: Use marbles, seashells or stones instead of the plastic flower. Fill the jar full. Drop a few drops of food coloring into some water and pour it into the jar. If desired, use a second color. Mix the second color with cooking oil. Pour it into the jar first, then the colored water. There will be two colors. The oil will stay at the top.

EGG SHELL PENCIL HOLDER



You will build up your manual dexterity doing this project.

material needed:
small vegetable can, egg shells, glue, waxed paper, and spray paint

let's get started: Prepare the can by washing it and taking off the label. Be careful that the top is completely off so you don't cut yourself on the lid.

1. Layout the waxed paper on a flat, hard surface.
2. Pour glue onto the waxed paper.
3. Crush the eggshells into the glue.
4. Roll the can across the eggshells and glue.
5. Let dry.
6. Paint it.
7. Let dry.

Idea: This makes a great pencil holder.

COLLAGE

This project will teach you to match items that are similar. You will also learn how to cut or shape pictures to fit.

material needed:

paper or poster board, old catalogs or magazines, glue, scissors

let's get started: Think about some of your favorite things. Look into the catalogs or magazines and find pictures that you like. For example: if you like BMX bikes cut out every bike and biking accessory that you can find.

1. Cut out the pictures.

2. Glue the pictures to the paper. Cover the entire sheet. You can overlap the pictures.

COLOR AND A SHAVE

You will improve your coordination by doing this project. You will also learn how to put colors together to make them look nice.

material needed:

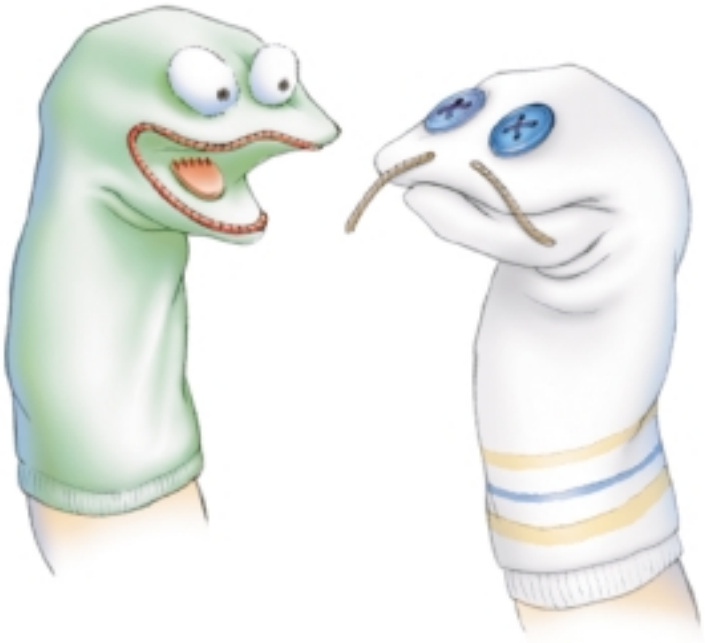
white paper, waxed paper, crayons, scissors or knife, towel, iron, ironing board or flat surface

let's get started: Use the scissors or knife carefully. Younger children should use a table knife or children's scissors.

1. Place the paper on a flat surface.
2. Select a few crayons. Hint: if you want to make a specific picture such as some trees, the grass and the sky, choose those colors. Take your knife or one side of the scissors and shave the crayon onto the paper. If you're making a tree, clump the colors together. You may also choose to just put the colors where you like them without having a specific shape in mind.
3. Cover with waxed paper.
4. Cover with the towel.
5. Iron - make sure to get the corners.
6. Let cool.

Variation: You can put a couple holes in the top and thread string or yarn through them to hang the picture on the wall.

SOCK PUPPET



Making a sock puppet will teach you about recycling. Have you lost one sock or one of the pair has holes in it? That's fine, make the other one into a new friend.

material needed:
sock, cotton balls, yarn, and glue

let's get started: Fit the sock to your hand.

1. Once the sock feels comfortable on your hand. Figure out where you want the eyes and the mouth to be.

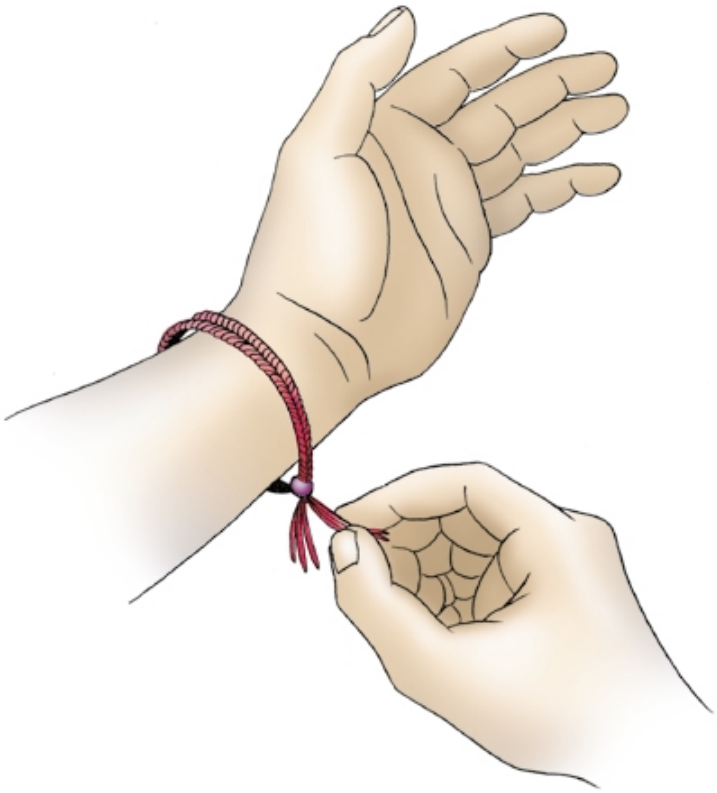
2. Glue the cotton balls onto the sock for eyes. You can use one for the nose. Use a piece of yarn for the mouth. Give your sock a mustache.

3. Let dry.

4. Name your new friend.

Variation: If you can sew, sew buttons on for the eyes. Make a tongue out of felt or a piece of fabric and sew it on where the mouth will be. When you move your hand, the sock puppet will talk.

FRIENDSHIP BRACELET



You will learn about sharing when you make a friendship bracelet. Make two and give one to your special friend.

material needed:
yarn or string, tape

let's get started: Do you know whom you're going to share with?

1. Cut three strands of yarn the same length
2. Tie a knot in one end to tie the strands together. Leave a strand out so you can tie it to the other end.
3. Tape the knotted end to the edge of a table.
4. Braid the strands.
5. Tie a knot in the second end. Leave a strand out and tie it to the other end.

Variation: you can make a necklace or ankle bracelet. When you're measuring the yarn, fit it to your ankle or wrist. You can also sew a bead to one end and a loop on the other. Put the bead through the loop to close it. You can also braid beads into the yarn.

DRIVE ME CRAZY

You will have fun interacting with your friends while driving around in your very own car. Let your imagination run wild as you stop at the store to pick up a gallon of milk or at the library to check out a book.

material needed:

chairs or the couch, A Frisbee or something round to use as the steering wheel, small boxes or cans to use as the gas and brake pedal, imagination, and lots of friends

let's get started: Everybody pile in.

1. The driver will set the boxes where they are comfortable for his or her feet. Once that is set the driver will start the car and use the Frisbee to steer.

2. Have fun and drive safe.

Ideas: Will you go to the store? Will you drop your friends off at work? Maybe you need to pick up the cat at the vet. When you're driving, remember to buckle your seatbelt and be careful going around those curves. Everyone will thrown around the car if you go to fast to the left or right. If you

I'M IN BUSINESS

You will learn about money in this game.

material needed:

paper, pencils, toys, other non-breakable household items, a nickel, dime, penny, quarter, dollar bill, calculator, masking tape, scissors, box, and colored markers

let's get started: Borrow a nickel, penny, dime and a quarter from your piggy bank or mom and dad.

1. Trace each coin and the dollar bill onto the paper a few times. This will be your money. Give all the real money back to whoever gave it to you.
2. Use the markers to color the money. Put the amount each is worth.
3. Quarter = .25 cents, dime = .10 cents, nickel = .5 cents, penny = .1 and a dollar = 100 cents.
4. Choose a storekeeper.
5. Set up shop. Choose some items and price them by writing an amount on a piece of tape and sticking it to a toy or stuffed animal. Choose a place for a community bulletin board. Put up signs to sell puppies or kittens. Use the box as a cash register. Put the calculator by the cash register to help ring up merchandise. Put some extra cash in the register to make change.
6. When everything is set up, send the shopper's home. They can drive back in their car to buy something.

DESIGNER SHOP

You will learn your shapes and colors. Your hand/eye coordination will also increase.

material needed:
drawing paper, colored pencils

let's get started: Place the paper on a flat surface and get comfortable.

1. Draw outfits that you'd like to wear. You can put them on models if you want. Color them the colors.

Ideas: if you like biking, draw a shirt and design a logo. If you like weddings draw your dream wedding dress and don't forget the veil.

Hint: if you are not the most experienced drawer, you will still like this. If you want to draw a dress, use a upside down triangle for the top and a circle for the bottom. You may become a world famous designer someday.

MODEL CHILD

You will increase your coordination by putting items together.

material needed:

music, play clothes, sheets, blankets, towels, safety pins and belts or something to tie around your waist and a fan

let's get started: Pick out something that you would like to wear. If you want to, you can try to model the outfit you designed.

1. Wrap the sheet around you and put a belt around your waist so it will stay up. Tie two ends around your neck. You have a toga or an elegant dress. Boys can mix and match their play clothes. Wrap a towel around your head and you have an instant turban.
2. Try as many different outfits as you like. Use your imagination to come up with kooky or dressy ones.
3. Turn on the music.
4. Select one person to be a photographer.
5. The models can walk around the room and pretend it's a runway. The photographer can pretend to be taking pictures with a play or imagined camera.
6. Turn on the fan and let it blow your hair around as you strike a pose or two. Be silly. Be sweet.

Variation: Maybe mom and dad will let you take a real photo or two with a real camera.

LET'S GO TO SCHOOL

You will sharpen your reading and writing skills and have fun at the same time even if you're just starting to learn.

material needed:

paper, pencils, places to sit, and your favorite books

let's get started: Here's the alphabet so you can use the letters to make up names. Sound out the letters. Don't worry if it's not spelled the way everybody else spells it.

A b c d e f g h I j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

1. Number your paper from one to twenty. Copy the numbers above if you don't know your numbers yet.
2. Use the letters to make up names. If you can't come up with twenty - that's fine. You don't need last names if you don't want them.
3. When you're done, take attendance. If you are playing alone, you can pretend. If you are with friends, they can be some of the kids you made up.
4. Read a book to them or just show them the pages as you tell the story.

Variations: If you're able to do math, use the numbers above to make up easy problems (4 + 2) and exchange them with your friends. Give yourself a grade and write it by the name on the attendance sheet.

CALL ME

You will learn to measure. You're hand/eye coordination will increase too.

material needed:

two medium sized coffee, vegetable or soup cans,
bottle opener, string, and a yardstick

let's get started: Wash the cans.

1. You're string can be as long or as short as you want it to be. The longer it is, the farther you can go. Using the yardstick, measure a few yards.

2. In each can, use the bottle opener to punch two holes in the top of one. The top of each can will be open. The bottom will have two holes in it.

3. Tie one end of the string to each of the cans.

4. Give a can, which is now a receiver to two people. Spread out and talk. You will be able to hear each other.

   Hint: When you're talking, talk into the open end of the can. When you're listening, put the open end of the can to your ear.

INCHWORM

You will learn how to tie a knot or practice your skill if you already know how. Your artistic sense will be higher once you make a cute face onto the inchworm.

material needed:

unmated sock, cotton balls, glue and yarn

let's get started: Do you want your inchworm to be big or little? The more cotton balls you stuff into the inchworm, the bigger it will be.

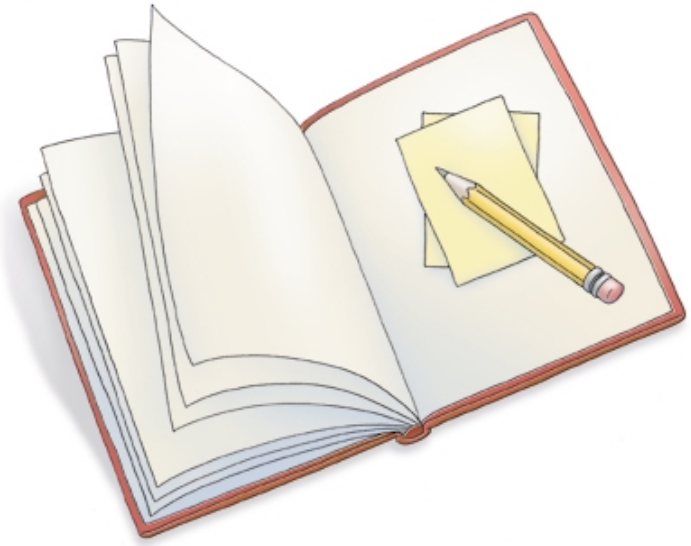
1. Stuff the sock with cotton balls and knot the end so the sock is closed.

2. Cut three pieces of yarn. Tie them in equal sections around the sock. The inchworm's body is now made.

3. Use two cotton balls for the eyes and a piece of yarn for the mouth. Glue them on.

Variations: you can also stuff the inch work with rice or navy beans. You can give it hair or use other pieces of fabric or other materials for the mouth and eyes. You can even add ears and a nose if you would like.

LIBRARY



You will increase your appreciation for the written word and learn how to effectively interact with others. You will also enhance your reading and writing skills.

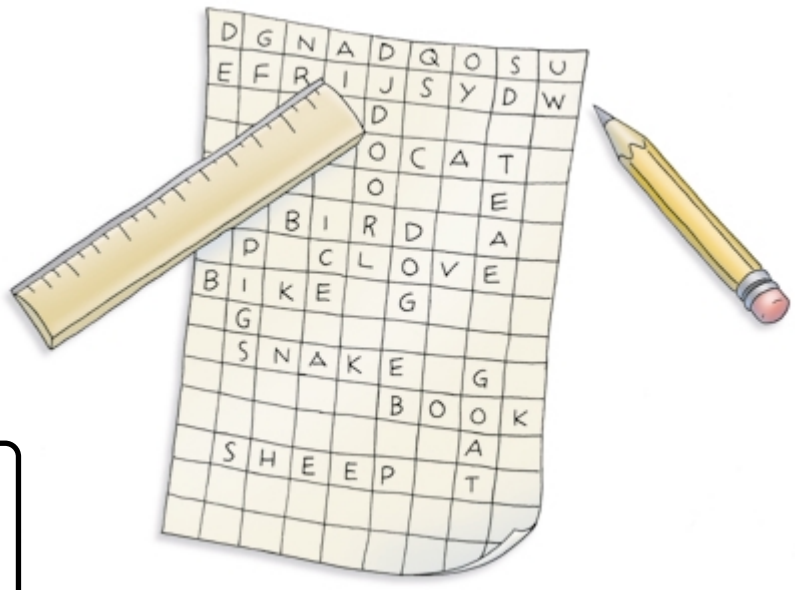
material needed:
books, paper, pencils, a small box, and a calendar

let's get started: Select an area that gives you some room to spread out.

1. Stack the books and divide them between everyone if there is more than one person playing.
2. For each book use two pieces of paper. Make sure they are small so they will fit into the book and the box.
3. For each book, copy the title onto each sheet. Put them in the back of the books. The paper will serve as library cards.
4. When the library cards are inside the books, put them around the room.
5. Choose a person to be the librarian.
6. The librarian will set up a counter where the box will be. He or she will need a calendar and a pencil.
7. Wear the clothes you designed and modeled, get in your car and drive to the library.
8. Choose some books
9. Check them out. The librarian will use the calendar to copy a date two weeks away on each of the pieces of paper in the books. Have the person checking out the book sign by the date you write on the paper.

Variations: You can also use VCR tapes.

WORD SEARCH



Finding words will help to improve your observation skills. You will also learn to identify letters and to use a ruler.

material needed:
ruler, paper, pencil
and optional dictionary

let's get started: Look at the ruler and get used to the marks on it. The first big line between two numbers is the half-inch mark.

1. Put the ruler on the paper. Mark a line at the half-inch, one-inch, one and a half-inch, two-inch and every half-inch to the edge of the page across the
2. Place the ruler flat on the page with the edge touching the mark. Trace the pencil along the ruler all the way down the page.
3. Make half-inch marks down the side of the page, just like you did across it.
4. Use the ruler as a guide to draw lines across the page, just like you did down the page.
5. Now you have a page of squares.
6. Write some words in the squares - across and down. Fill in the remaining squares with letters.
7. The alphabet: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S TU V W X Y Z

Sample words: cat, dog, bird, love, ice, tea, door, snake, bike, goat, pig, sheep, book, bed, pen, light, dark, toy, doll, boat, cookie, bat, ball, base. Use the dictionary to find words and copy them onto the grid.

Variation: Exchange your word search with your friend. See how many words you can find in five minutes.